

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Highly absorbent composite sheet comprising:
a non-woven fabric substrate having a bulky structure;
solid SAP partly contained inside said bulky structure and partly disposed on a surface of said non-woven substrate; and
a fibrous network in a form of a mesh formed of a hot-melt adhesive as a thermally fusible component, ~~said hot-melt adhesive forming a fibrous network in a form of a mesh,~~ said fibrous network contacting and covering said solid SAP to trap and hold the solid SAP so that said solid SAP is held in position.
2. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, further comprising fine cellulose disposed on the solid SAP as a layer, said fine cellulose being covered by the fibrous network.
3. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, wherein a coated amount of said hot-melt adhesive is 0.2 to 10 g / m².
4. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, wherein said hot-melt adhesive is mainly composed of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and non-tacking.
5. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 4, wherein a content of vinyl acetate in ethylene-vinyl acetate which is a main composition of said hot-melt adhesive is 20

to 40 % by weight and a thermal fluidity rate of said hot-melt adhesive is 50 to 150 g / 10 minutes.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A highly absorbent composite comprising:

a composite absorbent including a non-woven substrate, a SAP layer, and a ~~hot-melt adhesive layer forming a~~ fibrous network in a form of a mesh formed of a hot-melt adhesive layer as a thermally fusible component, said fibrous network contacting and substantially entirely covering said SAP layer to trap and hold the SAP layer, and

a sheet material disposed on said adhesive layer and bonded with said composite absorbent by said hot-melt adhesive layer by an adhesive property thereof to form a composite structure.

8. (currently amended) A highly absorbent composite comprising:

first and second composite absorbents, each comprising a non-woven substrate, an SAP layer, and a ~~hot-melt adhesive layer forming a~~ fibrous network in a form of a mesh formed of a hot-melt adhesive layer as a thermally fusible component, said fibrous network contacting and covering said SAP layer to trap and hold the SAP layer, said first composite absorbent being laid on the second composite absorbent such that said hot-melt adhesive layers contact ~~to~~ with each other and are bonded together by an adhesive property thereof to form a two material composite structure.

9. (currently amended) The highly absorbent composite of claim 8, further comprising an additional sheet material interposed between said first and second composite absorbents and bonded thereto by ~~an~~ the adhesive property of said hot-melt layers of said first and

second composite absorbents to form a three material composite structure.

10-12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A highly absorbent composite sheet comprising:

a non-woven substrate including a non-woven fabric with voids therein,

solid SAP partly disposed in the voids and distributed almost all over in ~~layers~~ a layer on a surface of the non-woven fabric, and

a dual fibrous network contacting and covering a surface of the solid SAP to trap and hold the solid SAP, said dual fibrous network having a first fibrous network in a form of dense mesh comprising a hot-melt adhesive as a thermally fusible component and a second fibrous network in a form of ~~looser~~ loose mesh coarser than the dense mesh and positioned over said first fibrous network.

14. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 13, wherein said dual fibrous network substantially entirely covers the solid SAP to thereby prevent the solid SAP from coming off.

15. (previously presented) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 13, wherein the fibers of said hot-melt layer of dense mesh are finer than the fibers of said hot-melt layer of loose mesh.

16-23. (cancelled)